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USA terrorist state

Cuba protests against release of assassin. Demands for end of blockade on anniversary of bombing



ZUMA Press/imago

Washington supports terrorism against Cuba: At the May Day parade in Havana in 2007

For three years, the US government has included Cuba on a list of states accused of sponsoring terrorism. From the Cuban perspective, however, the situation is the other way around. On Sunday, thousands of people in Cuba, Barbados, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago commemorated the victims of a bomb attack on a civilian Cuban airliner 48 years ago on behalf of former CIA agents, in which 73 passengers were killed. The terrorists responsible lived unmolested in the USA until their deaths. Two days before the anniversary of the attack, the Cuban Foreign Ministry denounced "a new act of US complicity in terrorist violence against Cuba." The protest was directed against the release from prison of a perpetrator who carried out a terrorist attack on the Cuban embassy in Washington on April 30, 2020.

Wrapped in a US flag, the then 42-year-old Cuban-born opponent of the system, Alexander Alazo, who had been granted political asylum by Washington, first tried to burn a Cuban flag on the street in front of the embassy, on which he had scrawled the words "Trump 2020." He then fired 32 shots at the diplomatic mission with an assault rifle. Judge Michael Harvey of the District Court of the District of Columbia ordered the arrest of the perpetrator because he posed a "danger to society."

Contra media such as the Miami-based online portal *ADN Cuba*, however, defended Alazo, who had made contact with right-wing Cuban exiles before his crime, and claimed that he was "mentally disturbed" and therefore not guilty. Four years later, the US judiciary officially adopted this version. At the end of September, District Judge Amy Berman Jackson ordered Alazo's release from October 15. "The long-term goal is for him to get well and live with you and your children," the judge told Alazo's wife. "Mr. Alazo was not well when he committed this crime. Criminal proceedings should never have been initiated against him. (...) As long as he is treated, Mr. Alazo is not a danger to anyone," the *Washington Post* quoted former federal public defender Sabrina P. Shroff, who is representing the perpetrator "pro bono."

The Cuban Foreign Ministry accused the US government of being a "tolerant accomplice of terrorism and violence." The attack "on a central street in the US capital against a diplomatic headquarters would be classified as a terrorist act in any other country," it said in a statement released on October 4. However, the US government "refused to classify this act for what it is and at no time had any intention of prosecuting the perpetrator as a terrorist, although his actions are expressly described as such in US law." In addition, the judicial authorities ignored "evidence of Alazo's links to groups based in South Florida" that had repeatedly "acted aggressively against Cuba and promoted violence and terrorism."

Havana's protest note came two days before the anniversary of the terrorist attack on a civilian airliner on October 6, 1976. On the orders of ex-CIA agents Luis Posada Carriles and Orlando Bosch, two Venezuelan mercenaries had placed explosive devices in the cockpit of the plane, which were detonated shortly after takeoff in Barbados. 57 Cubans, five North Koreans and eleven passengers from Guyana were killed when the plane crashed. On Sunday, the victims were remembered at events in Havana, Bridgetown, Port of Spain and Georgetown. Foreign Ministers Sandra Husbands (Barbados), Amery Browne (Trinidad and Tobago) and Hugh Todd (Guyana) called on the USA to remove Cuba from its list of alleged sponsors of terrorism and to end the economic, trade and financial blockade that has been imposed on the island's population for over 60 years.